

Program Chair Annual Report, 2004

NACBS/MACBS Joint Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, October 29-31, 2004

2004 Program Committee:

Seth Koven (Chair, Villanova University), post-1832
Antoinette Burton (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), empire
Nancy Ellenberger (US Naval Academy), post-1832
Katherine French (SUNY, New Paltz), pre-1500
Steve Pincus (University of Chicago) 1660-1832
Joseph Ward (University of Mississippi) 1500-1660

Deadline for receipt of proposals was Friday, January 23, 2004. The Call for Papers appeared in the AHA's Perspectives and was widely disseminated to list-serves of allied organizations and fields. We received 51 panels and 33 single paper submissions from which we accepted and created 42 regular panels. The proposals were processed in February, distributed to Program Committee members and reviewed in March and April. The Program Committee strove to place strong individual submissions on the program either by adding them to existing panel proposals or creating entirely new panels. Letters of acceptance and rejection were mailed during the last week of April, 2004. The final program (with participants' amendments and corrections to the proofs sent to them) and the list of participants' audio-visual and technological needs were sent to the MACBS in early June, 2004.

This year's conference features two plenary speakers: Martha Vicinus and Christopher Dyer. Professors Vicinus and Dyer were selected in consultation with NACBS President, Cynthia Herrup, whose assistance I gratefully acknowledge. I am also grateful to the NACBS for continuing to make it possible to bring a plenary speaker from the UK on alternating years despite the disappearance of outside funds to support this endeavor. This year's semi-plenaries, organized by the Program Chair in partnership with the Program Committee, are on "Biography" and "The American Revolution in British History and Imagination." Program Committee members played key roles in identifying semi-plenary participants. The semi-plenary on the American Revolution was inspired by my desire to link the content of the conference to its location in Philadelphia as well as to build on a previous semi-plenary discussion on the Atlantic World. This goal was also promoted by including in the conference program a tour of colonial and revolutionary Philadelphia led by history doctoral candidates or recent recipients of PhDs from the University of Pennsylvania. My thanks to Lynn Lees and Andrew August (Local Arrangements) for coordinating this component of the program. To complement the semi-plenary on biography, I invited members of the team who edited and created the New Dictionary of National Biography to reflect on that project in a special plenary session. I worked with Oxford University Press to use the NACBS Annual Meeting as the North American launch for the New DNB. I was delighted that the Press also responded generously to my request for a contribution of \$7500 toward the cost of our reception on Saturday evening.

As well as planning the annual conference, I worked with the staff of the American Historical Association to organize NACBS co-sponsorship of sessions at the 2005 AHA Annual Meeting. The Program Chair received the advice and approval of the Executive Committee for these co-sponsorships.

Let me offer some observations about this year's program in comparison to last year. We received 51 panel proposals compared to 38 in 2003; and 33 single papers compared to 26 in 2003. I suspect that these increases reflect the meeting's location in Philadelphia. We had a slight increase in the percentage of male and full professor participants. Overall, the quality of submissions remained high. The percentage of participants who are members of the NACBS continued to increase to 67% from 61% in 2003 and 39% in 2002. I received many more queries about membership throughout the year, most likely in response to my decision to add a box indicating membership status to the application form. A substantial percentage of non-member participants include scholars from institutions outside the US and non-historians. 31% of participants are non-historians; 31% are affiliated with institutions outside the US.

At last year's meeting in Portland, several NACBS members expressed a desire to see more varied formats for presentation of papers and work. In concert with the Program Committee and President, I initiated an experiment with two particularly strong panel proposals to run these sessions as working seminars. I placed them on Sunday as an inducement for members to stay until the end of the conference. NACBS members were invited to sign up for these sessions on a first come, first admitted basis and receive the pre-circulated papers in advance of the meeting. To encourage discussion and to work within the constraints of available space at the hotel, we limited attendance to 30 slots for each session in addition to the panelists. The Program Committee, in consultation with the Executive, will evaluate the effectiveness of this format at future meetings based on the members' responses to this year's sessions.

Members of the Program Committee, and Executive Committee provided on-going and invaluable support throughout the year. I particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of Joe Ward and Kit French who are rotating off the Program Committee after serving three year terms. I extend my thanks to Andrew August for his excellent work as Chair of Local Arrangements. I received outstanding support from two graduate research assistants at Villanova University, Laura Moyer Salvucci and Meagan Schenkelberg as well as the assistance of members of the professional staff at Villanova University: Mrs. Georgiana Kilroy and Mrs. Anna Misticoni.

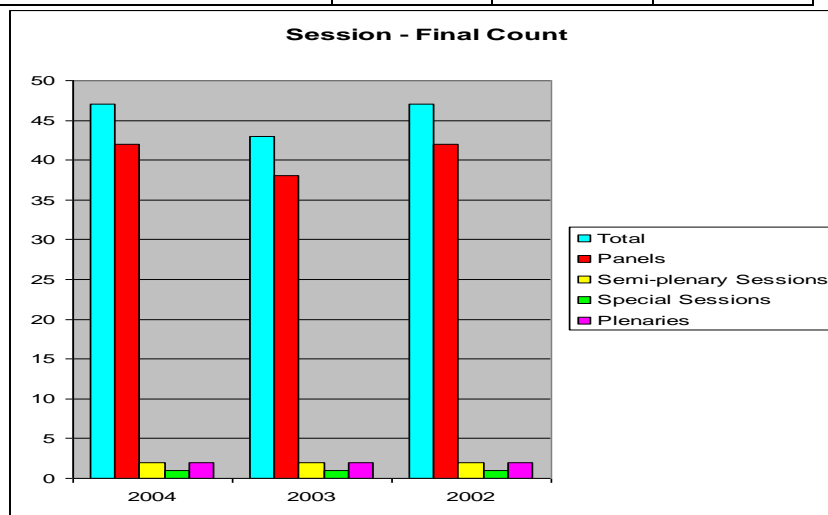
For support of this year's conference, we thank Adam Matthew Publications, The American Philosophical Society, The Institute of Historical Research, Oxford University Press, Pennsylvania State University, Abington, and Villanova University, Department of History.

Respectfully submitted,
Seth Koven
Program Chair, NACBS

Statistical Analysis of 2004 NACBS Conference

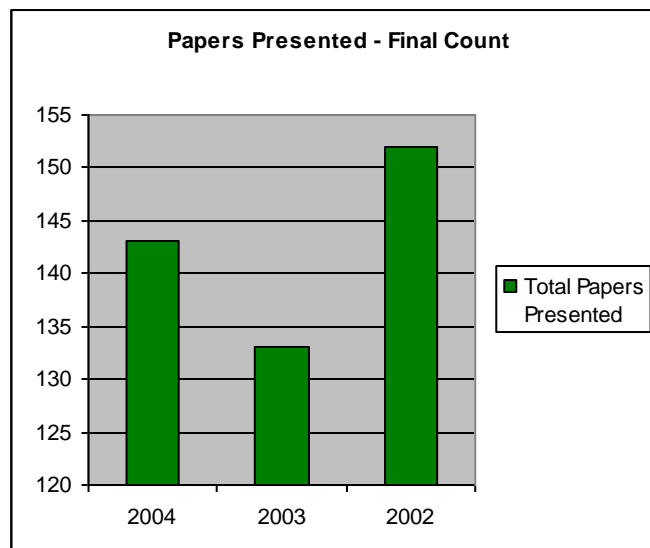
Sessions – Final Count

	2004	2003	2002
Panels	42	38	42
Semi-plenary Sessions	2	2	2
Special Sessions	1	1	1
Plenaries	2	2	2
Total	47	43	47



Papers Presented – Final Count

	2004	2003	2002
Total Papers Presented	143	133	152

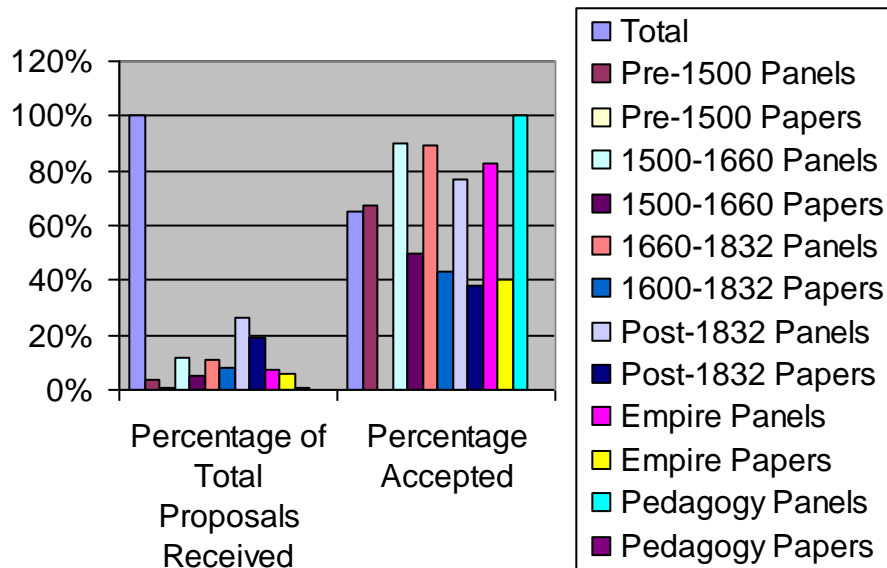


Proposals Received and Accepted by Period, 2004

(Papers within panel proposals not individually counted)

Period and Type of Proposal	Number Received	Number Accepted	Percentage Accepted	Percentage of Total Proposals Received
Pre-1500 Panels	3	2	67%	4%
Pre-1500 Papers	1	0	0%	1%
1500-1660 Panels	10	9	90%	12%
1500-1660 Papers	4	2	50%	5%
1660-1832 Panels	9	8	89%	11%
1600-1832 Papers	7	3	43%	8%
Post-1832 Panels	22	17	77%	26%
Post-1832 Papers	16	6	38%	19%
Empire Panels	6	5	83%	7%
Empire Papers	5	2	40%	6%
Pedagogy Panels	1	1	100%	1%
Pedagogy Papers	0	0	0%	0%
Total	84	55	65%	100%

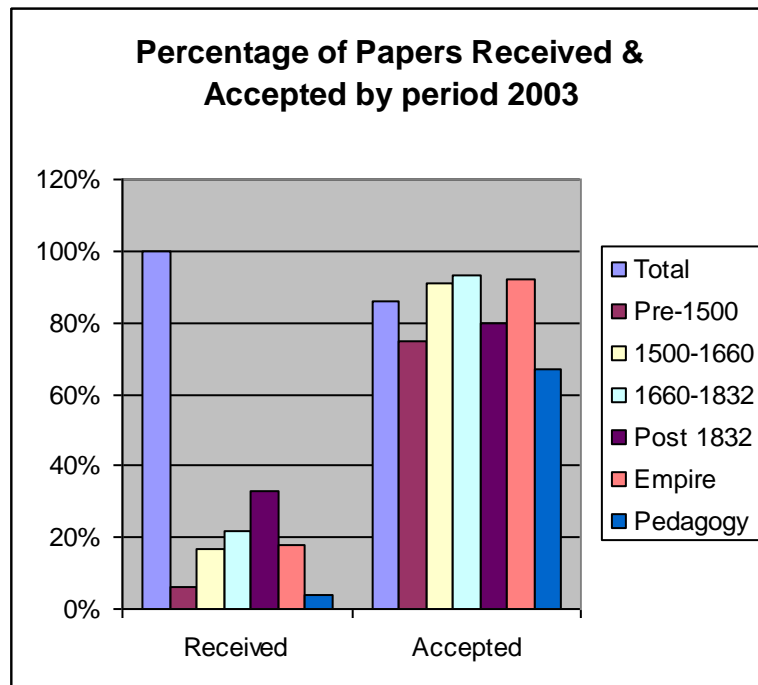
Percentages of Proposals Received and Accepted by Period 2004



Papers Received and Accepted by Period, 2003

(Papers within panel proposals individually counted)

Period	Number Received	Number Accepted	Percentage Accepted	Percentage of Total Proposals Received
Pre-1500	8	6	75%	6%
1500-1660	23	21	91%	17%
1660-1832	30	28	93%	22%
Post 1832	46	37	80%	33%
Empire	25	23	92%	18%
Pedagogy	6	4	67%	4%
Total	138	119	86%	100%

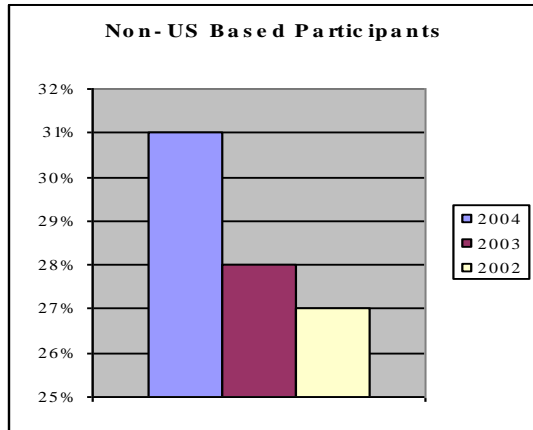


Non-US based participants:¹

2004: 31%

2003: 28%

2002: 27%

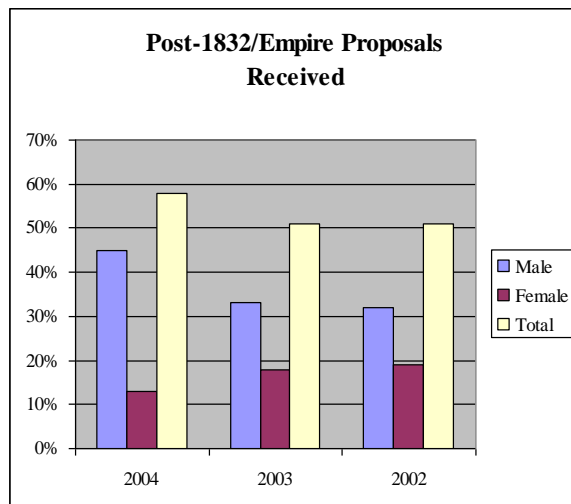


Post-1832/ Empire Proposals Received:

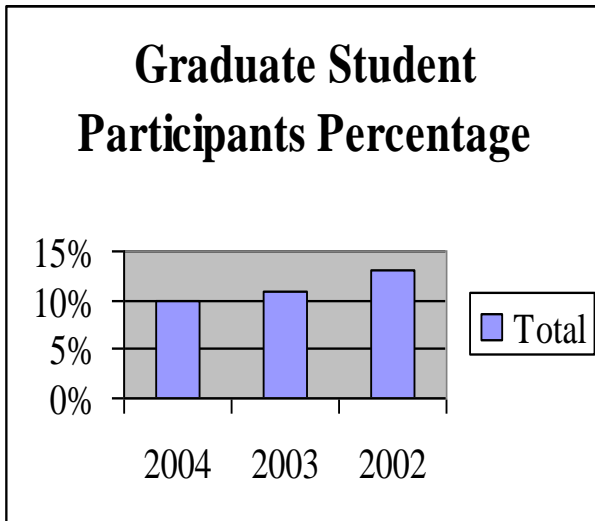
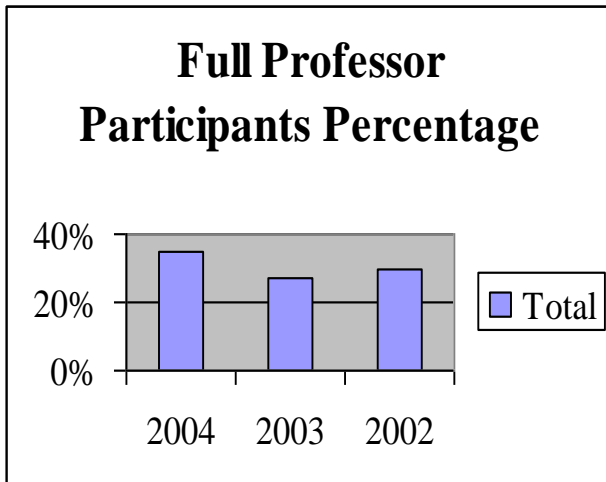
2004: 58% (45% / 13%)

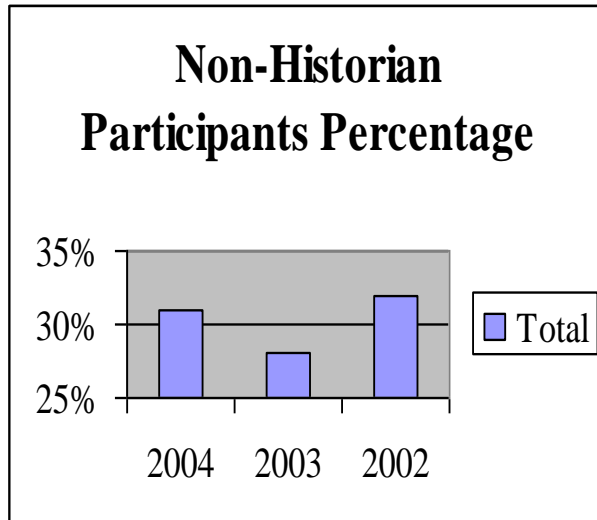
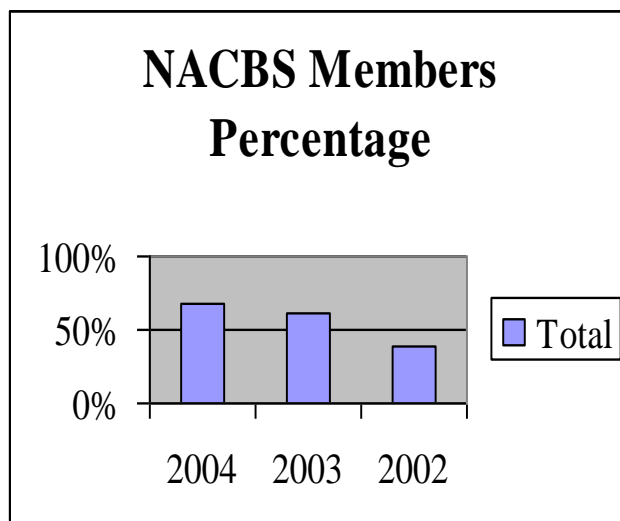
2003: 51% (33% / 18%)

2002: 51% (32% / 19%)



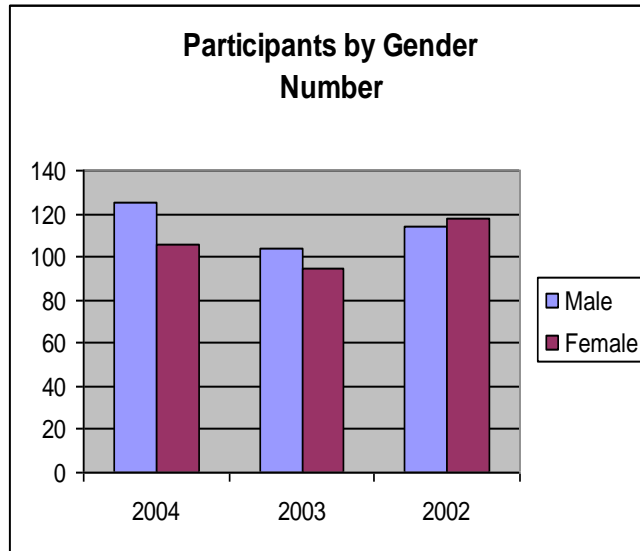
¹ Throughout the statistical analysis, “participants” refers to total participants, including those involved in plenary, semi-plenary, and special sessions.

Percentage of Graduate Student Participants:**2004:** 10%**2003:** 11%**2002:** 13%**Percentage of Full Professor Participants:****2004:** 35%**2003:** 27%**2002:** 30%

Percentage of Non-Historian Participants:**2004:** 31%**2003:** 28%**2002:** 32%**Percentage of NACBS Members (All Participants):****2004:** 67% (154 of 231)**2003:** 61% (121 of 199)**2002:** 39% (90 of 232)

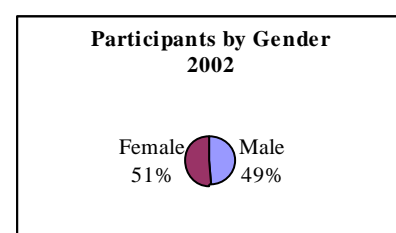
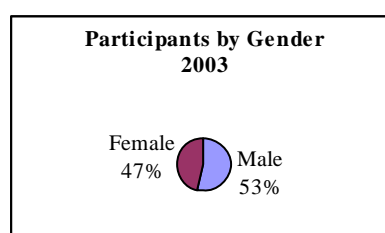
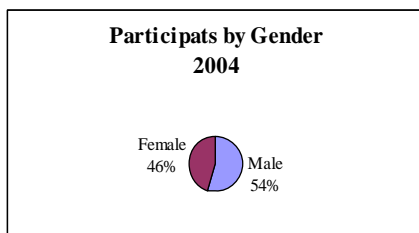
Participants by Gender – Number

	2004	2003	2002
Male	125	104	114
Female	106	95	118
Total	231	199	232



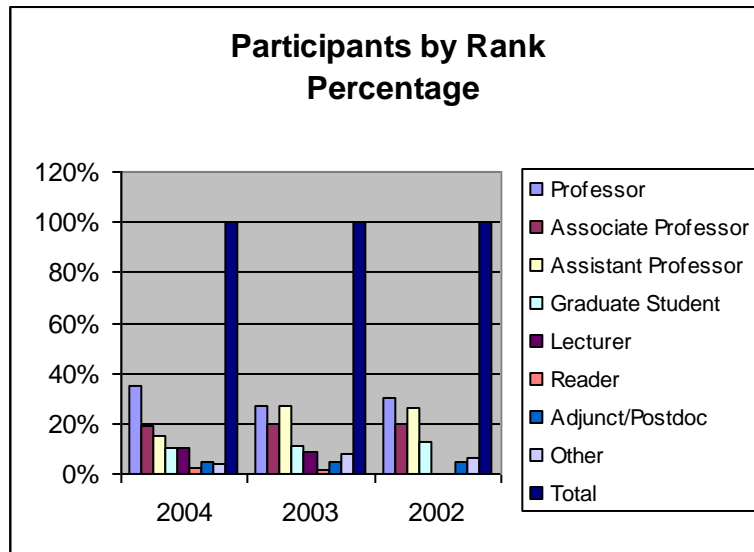
Participants by Gender - Percentage

	2004	2003	2002
Male	54%	53%	49%
Female	46%	47%	51%



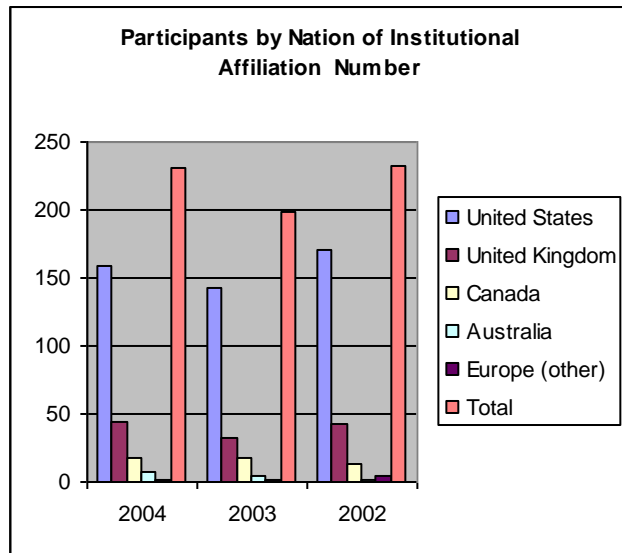
Participants by Rank - Percentage

	2004	2003	2002
Professor	35%	27.0%	30%
Associate Professor	19%	19.5%	20%
Assistant Professor	15%	27.0%	26%
Graduate Student	10%	11.0%	13%
Lecturer	10%	8.5%	0%
Reader	2%	1.5%	0%
Adjunct/Postdoc	5%	5.0%	5%
Other	4%	8.0%	6%
Total	100%	100.5%	100%



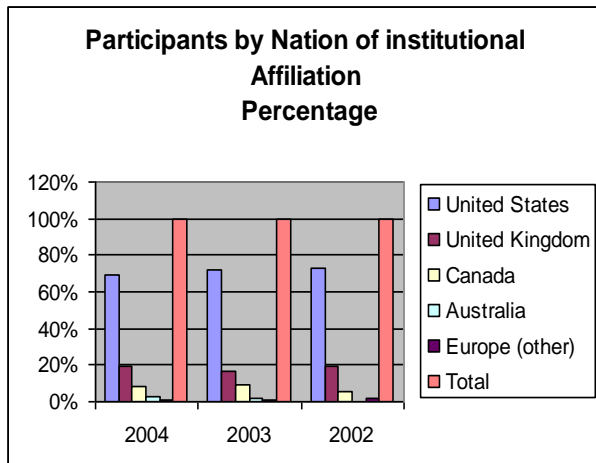
Participants by Nation of Institutional Affiliation - Number

	2004	2003	2002
United States	159	143	170
United Kingdom	44	33	43
Canada	18	18	13
Australia	8	4	1
Europe (other)	2	1	5
Total	231	199	232



Participants by Nation of Institutional Affiliation – Percentage

	2004	2003	2002
United States	69%	72.0%	73.0%
United Kingdom	19%	16.5%	19.0%
Canada	8%	9.0%	5.6%
Australia	3%	2.0%	0.4%
Europe (other)	1%	0.5%	2.0%
Total	100%	100%	100%



Participants by Departmental Affiliation – Percentage

	2004	2003	2003
History	69%	78.0%	68.0%
English/Literature	16%	11.0%	15.0%
Political Science	0%	2.5%	1.0%
Art History	1%	0	2.0%
Theater History/Drama	0%	0	2.0%
Interdisciplinary	6%	1.5%	7.0%
Law	0%	1.5%	0.0%
Humanities	2%	1.0%	0.0%
Education	0%	0.5%	0.4%
Women's Studies	0%	0.5%	0%
Other	6%	3.5%	4.6%
Total	100%	100%	100%

